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*News Release***

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION*

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***Louisiana Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army  
Reappointed***

Fort Polk, La. – Secretary of the Army, Thomas E. White, has re-appointed Louisiana businessman T.L. “Sonny” Berry to continue serving as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for Louisiana.

Berry, a Korean Conflict veteran who earned a Bronze Star for valor, has served as a Civilian Aide since 1982. This prestigious re-appointment is for a two-year term.

As a Civilian Aide, Berry serves as advisor to the Secretary of the Army and to Fifth U.S. Army’s Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Freddy E. McFarren, on all matters pertaining to Army activities within Louisiana.

“These are important people to the United States Army. They are part of the sounding board for whoever the Secretary may be; a person the Secretary can reach out and talk to about issues and get a different perspective,” said McFarren.

Berry also continues the responsibility of interpreting the Army to communities within the state and, in turn, interpreting these civilian communities to the Army, thus serving as liaison between the Army and the Louisiana civilian communities.

Civilian Aides are provided timely, pertinent information on subjects of general Army interest, especially subjects that have particular

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**Civilian Aide re-appointed 2/2/2/**

application in their states. Individuals designated for this responsibility are accorded a unique protocol status equivalent to a two-and-a-half star general. Berry is one of 31 Civilian Aides serving in positions throughout the Fifth Army area of responsibility.

Berry currently serves on the Board of Directors of Merchants and Farmers Bank and Trust, Leesville, Louisiana. He is a member of various organizations to include life member, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3106; member, American Legion; member, Louisiana Societe Des 40/8-V-274 (American Legion); member, Northwestern State University Leesville/Fort Polk Advisory Board; and member, Governor's Military Advisory Board for Louisiana.

Berry's past affiliations include member of the National Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Advisory Board; president, AUSA, Forth Region; National AUSA Council of Trustees; president (two terms), Leonidas Polk Chapter, AUSA; member Vernon Parish Economic Development Committee; chairman, Military Affairs Committee, Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce; president, Leesville Civitan Club; and president (two terms), Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

Berry has received numerous awards and decorations to include the AUSA President's Medal; The Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Medal; the Army's Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service; four awards of Army's Commander's Public Service Award; the Louisiana Distinguished Service Medal; and two awards of the AUSA Award for Distinguished Service.

He and his wife, Nancy (King), have four children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.